

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJECT: SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT LIBERAL LEADERSHIP

1. AS LIBERAL LEADERSHIP RACE DRAWS TOWARD CLOSE THIS WEEKEND, POLL WARS CONTINUE. LATEST, IN DIMANCHE-MATIN, SHOWS RYAN LIKELY GARNER FROM 65 TO 73 PERCENT OF BALLOTS AGAINST 27 TO 35 PERCENT FOR GARNEAU (INCLUDING APPORTIONMENT OF 25 PERCENT UNDECIDEDS), WHILE ANOTHER POLL CITED BY GARNEAU SOURCES IN SAM PAPER PUTS RATION AT 50 TO 45 PERCENT, RESPECTIVELY, WITH LESS THAN FIVE PERCENT UNDECIDED. OMITTING LATTER GROUP, DIMAHCHE (IQOP) POLL GIVES RYAN 51.9 TO 23 PERCENT, WITH RYAN SUPPORT EVENLY DISTRIBUTED BY SEX, AGE, AND LANGUAGE GROUP. (LATTER FACTOR MUST BE TAKEN WITH GRAIN OF SALT AS HALF OF ANGLOPHONES WOULD NOT ANNOUNCE A PREFERENCE.)

2. PARADOXICALLY, ALTHOUGH "EVERYONE" (ELSE) AGREES THAT RYAN CANNOT MISS, GARNEAU MAY BE QUITE CORRECT IN HIS CLAIM THAT THE TIDE IS TURNING. CONGEN HAS HEARD NUMBER OF SECOND THOUGHTS IN PAST WEEK TO EFFECT THAT, ALTHOUGH RYAN WILL UNQUESTIONABLY WIN, IT IS NO LONGER UNQUESTIONABLE THAT HE IS THE BEST CANDI-
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DATE. COMMENTS ARE COMING PRIMARILY FROM ANGLOPHONE SOURCES BUT SOME FRANCOPHONES HAVE JOINED IN. FOR EXAMPLE, SAME DAY MONTREAL STAR CAME OUT WITH EDITORIAL TACITLY ENDORSING RYAN, PUBLISHER OF GAZETTE TOLD ME HIS EDITORIAL STAFF WAS SPLIT DOWN THE MIDDLE ON DESIRABILITY OF RYAN, AND QUESTION OF ANY EDITORIAL ON SUBJECT WAS STUCK ON DEAD CENTER.

3. BASIS OF LATE DISCONTENT APPEARS AMALGAM OF BELATED CONCERN THAT RYAN IS TOO NATIONALISTIC (COMPARED TO GARNEAU) COUPLED WITH IRRITATION CAUSED BY ARROGANCE/IMPATIENCE DISPLAYED AT SEVERAL PUBLIC MEETINGS WHICH HAVE HIGHLIGHTED RYAN "AUTHORITATIVE" IMAGE IN NOT THE BEST POSSIBLE LIGHT. ALSO, ALTHOUGH RYAN CAMPAIGN HAS GENERALLY SHOWN GREAT PROFESSIONALISM, MANY OLD POLS WERE DUMBFOUNDED BY HIS RECENT ATTACK ON MAYOR DRAPEAU ("HE LOST 200 DELEGATES RIGHT THEN").

4. COMMENT: HOWEVER THE TIDE IS RUNNING, IT IS PROBABLY TOO LITTLE AND TOO LATE FOR GARNEAU. ONE HAS TO APPRECIATE HIS FEEL FOR HISTORY AS WELL AS HIS CHUTZPAH, NONETHELESS, FOR HIS REPETITIVE, UP-BEAT COMMENTS THIS PAST WEEK THAT "NO ONE THOUGHT HARRY TRUMAN COULD BEAT DEWEY EITHER." HARPER

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